WINCHESTER NEWS
A TRUSTED AND RELIABLE SOURCE OF LOCAL NEWS

Donate

DONATE | NEWS | SPORTS | EVENTS | FEATURES | OPINION | NEWSLETTER | CONTACT | ABOUT

2026 TOWN ELECTIONS

# Michelle Bergstrom - Precinct 3

January 1, 2026 . 3:00 AM — 3 min read

**Preferred contact method:**
bergstromm@gmail.com

**What experiences and perspectives would you contribute to Town Meeting?**
I bring nine years of experience serving on the Winchester School Committee, where I have helped oversee one of the town's largest and most complex budgets. In that role, I have reviewed and approved annual operating budgets, long-term capital plans, and collective bargaining agreements, while working closely with residents, families, educators, and town leadership.

This experience has given me a strong understanding of Winchester's municipal finances, the connection between school and town budgets, and the importance of long-term planning and responsible use of stabilization funds to sustain high-quality services.
During my tenure, I also served on the Housing Partnership Board, where I worked to address the challenges of expanding affordable housing and ensuring that Winchester remains accessible to young families, and a diverse workforce.

Subscribe

In addition, I was involved in the Community Preservation Act from the ground up—advocating for its adoption at Town Meeting and later serving on the Community Preservation Committee. This work has helped secure dedicated funding for recreation, historic preservation, and affordable housing—critical investments that had often been deferred and are essential to Winchester's long-term strength.

**What are two or three issues facing Winchester that you think are most important and what are your positions on them?**

1. Long-term financial planning and capital needs.
   Winchester faces significant capital investments in school facilities, town buildings, and infrastructure. It is critical that these needs be addressed through thoughtful, long-term planning that balances fiscal responsibility with maintaining safe, functional public facilities. I support proactive capital planning, transparent financial decision-making, and the responsible use of stabilization funds to address these needs.
2. Maintaining strong public schools as a cornerstone of the community.
   Our schools are central to Winchester's identity and success. High-quality public education benefits the entire town by strengthening the community and supporting property values. I support continued investment in our schools while ensuring that financial decisions align with overall town priorities and long-term sustainability.
3. Override funding
   One of the most important issues facing Winchester is the need to pass an operating override to sustain essential municipal services. Proposition 2½ limits revenue growth while costs continue to rise, creating a structural gap. I support a transparent and responsible override to ensure we can continue to fund public safety, infrastructure, and our schools at the level residents expect.
   A key priority within this effort is strengthening literacy and r
   instruction. These foundational skills are essential to student success,

Subscribe

and targeted investments in evidence-based reading and math programs will help ensure all students build strong academic foundations.

Passing an override is necessary to maintain Winchester's financial stability and preserve the high-quality services that define our community.

**What is a special challenge in your precinct that might not be faced in other precincts?**

Precinct 3 includes the Town Center, where residents are directly affected by decisions about historic preservation, redevelopment, and compliance with the MBTA Communities Act. The proposed demolition of the Carriage House highlighted the difficult balance between preserving Winchester's historic character and allowing thoughtful reinvestment.

In addition, the MBTA Communities Act will require zoning changes to allow multifamily housing in areas near transit. While this creates opportunities to support housing diversity and strengthen our Town Center, it also requires careful planning to ensure new development fits Winchester's scale, protects historic resources, and aligns with infrastructure capacity.

These issues are especially visible in Precinct 3 and require thoughtful, informed decision-making that balances preservation, housing needs, and the long-term vitality of the Town Center.

**Why should voters elect you to represent them?**

I am asking for your vote because I bring nine years of experience making difficult decisions on the Winchester School Committee, overseeing one of the town's largest budgets and helping guide Winchester through complex financial and policy challenges. I understand how town government works, and I know the importance of balancing fiscal responsibility with maintaining the high-quality services our residents expect.

Subscribe

As a parent and long-time community member, I have a personal stake in Winchester's future. I have dedicated years to public service because I care deeply about preserving what makes Winchester special—strong schools, sound finances, and a vibrant community.

I will bring experience, independence, and a long-term perspective to Town Meeting, and I will work to ensure Winchester remains a strong and sustainable town for future generations.

–

Return to Town Meeting Candidate list.

## Related

NEWS

### John Bellaire, 22, among youngest townwide winners in Winchester history

He won all eight precincts after a door-to-door campaign that emphasized direct voter contact over institutional backing.

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER

March 25, 2026

2026 TOWN ELECTIONS

### 13 YEARS OF DATA, ONE SATURDAY: Takeaways from Winchester's override vote and the races that surrounded it

Winchester News reviewed precinct-level election results from every annual town election since 2014 — 13 years of data — covering turnout, ballot questions, Board races, School Committee and Planning Board results — and compared

Subscribe

them against the March 21 preliminary numbers. The 2026 results have not yet been certified by Town

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER

March 25, 2026

NEWS

## With override rejected, Winchester shifts from campaigning to budget planning

After Winchester voters rejected an $11.5 million Proposition 2 1/2 override on Election Day, March 21, the governing question in town has shifted from persuasion to arithmetic. Select Board member Bill McGonigle, who served on the Yes for Winchester campaign, said the defeat has changed how he approaches

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER

March 25, 2026

NEWS

## Voters fill Town Meeting seats across Winchester; four incumbents unseated

The biggest shakeup came in Precinct 7, where two officeholders lost in an 11-person contest, matching Precinct 4 for the busiest race.

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER

March 21, 2026

# Latest

Subscribe

NEWS

## Winchester ZBA waives town regulations to move Washington/Swanton project along

Town officials have approved waivers of regulations for a residential/commercial development project at Washington and Swanton streets. The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) on March 19 approved the waivers for a 40B project at 278-292 Washington St. and 12 and 16-20 Swanton St. in a special meeting preceding a

NEIL ZOLOT | CORRESPONDENT

March 26, 2026

NEWS

## John Bellaire, 22, among youngest townwide winners in Winchester history

He won all eight precincts after a door-to-door campaign that emphasized direct voter contact over institutional backing.

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER

March 25, 2026

EVENTS

## Network for Social Justice to celebrate 35th anniversary

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: The Network For Social

EVENTS

## Winchester Community Music School presents Jazz

The following was submitted by the Winchester Community Music School: On

Subscribe

Justice turns 35 this spring! There will be a celebration on Saturday, April 11, from 7-9:30 p.m., at the Sons of Italy, 117 Swanton St., Winchester. Connect with your local friends and neighbors as

March 25, 2026

Saturday, March 28, join the community at Winchester Community Music School, 407 Highland Ave., for a Jazz Jam Session, an afternoon of fun, spontaneous jazz playing, beginning at 3 p.m. Instrumentalists and vocalists of all skill levels are

March 25, 2026

WINCHESTER NEWS
A TRUSTED AND RELIABLE SOURCE OF LOCAL NEWS

Subscribe to Winchester News

© 2026 Winchester News Group, Inc. Copying and sharing with permission for non-commercial use only.

Subscribe